

June 12, 2020

American Institute of
Architects - Massachusetts
Citizens' Housing and Planning
Association
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental League of
Massachusetts
Fair Housing Center of Greater
Boston
Local Initiatives Support
Corporation - Boston
Massachusetts Association of
Community Development
Corporations
Massachusetts Public Health
Association
Metropolitan Area Planning
Council

Representative Peter DeFazio, Transportation & Infrastructure Chair
Representative Sam Graves, Transportation & Infrastructure Ranking Member
Delegate Eleanor Norton Holmes, Highway & Transit Chair
Representative Rodney Davis, Highways & Transit Ranking Member
Chair, Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

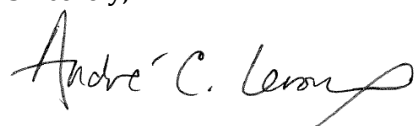
The Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance (MSGA) appreciates the hard work and thoughtful approach taken in the draft proposal for long-term surface transportation legislation that would replace the existing FAST Act. While there may be ways to improve this bill, MSGA wants to be clear that the proposed INVEST in America Act is a major step forward and we hope that its approach is adopted by the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

MSGA is composed of diverse policy organizations working in Massachusetts to promote healthy and diverse communities, to protect critical environmental resources, to advocate for housing and transportation choices, and to support equitable community development and urban reinvestment.

We applaud the framework in the proposed INVEST in America Act for providing support for public transit, prioritizing maintenance, measuring and reducing greenhouse gases, promoting safe streets, and connecting people to housing, jobs and services. The status quo is broken, and we need to move away from a 1950's approach to transportation.

As an organization that recognizes the strong link between land use, transportation, and climate, MSGA is pleased that the proposed bill goes farther than ever in integrating land use and transportation planning. We strongly agree with the proposal to create a new federal office to coordinate this planning (which should include an equity emphasis).

Sincerely,



Andre Leroux
Executive Director